

Rapid Watershed Assessment Bald Eagle Watershed

Rapid watershed assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.





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Preface

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is initiating rapid watershed assessments in order to increase the speed and efficiency generating resource information to guide conservation implementation, as well as the speed and efficiency of putting it into the hands of local decision makers. While these rapid assessments provide less detail and analysis than full-blown studies and plans, they do provide a foundation for watershed studies or area planning. In addition, the assessments provide the benefits of NRCS locally-led planning for resource conservation and conservation program implementation in less time and at a reduced cost than more complex studies.

Rapid watershed assessments will be valuable for Farm Bill program delivery, and provide useful information for county, watershed and regional planners. These assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments can help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.

To produce the assessments, quantitative and qualitative data is collected and organized to create a watershed profile using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The data is analyzed to allow resource concerns and conditions to become apparent, and to generate maps and information to help people make better decisions about conservation needs and programs.

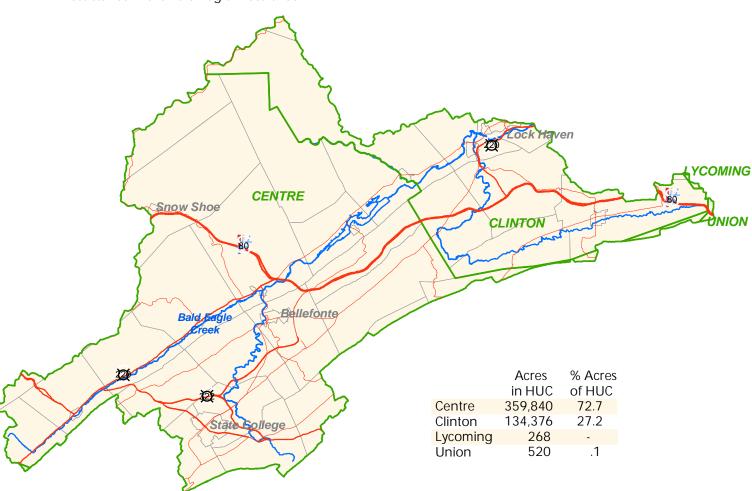
/s/ Craig R. Derickson
Pennsylvania State Conservationist



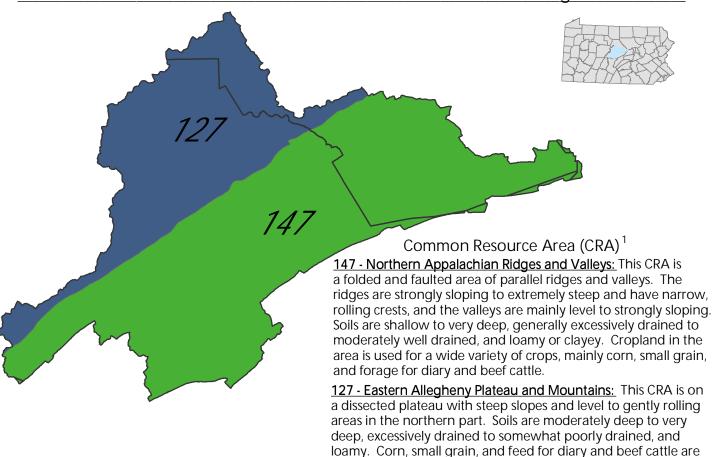


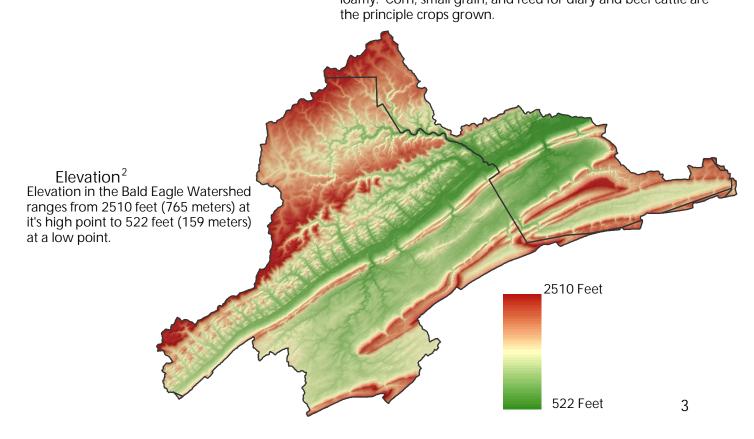
Introduction

The Bald Eagle Watershed is located in Central Pennsylvania in portions of Centre and Clinton Counties and very small areas of Lycoming and Union Counties. The watershed is over 495,000 acres in size, of which about 87,700 acres is farmland. Two Service Centers of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, four County Conservation Districts and the Headwaters and very small parts of the Endless Mountains and Community Partnerships Resource Conservation and Development Councils provide watershed assistance in the Bald Eagle Watershed.



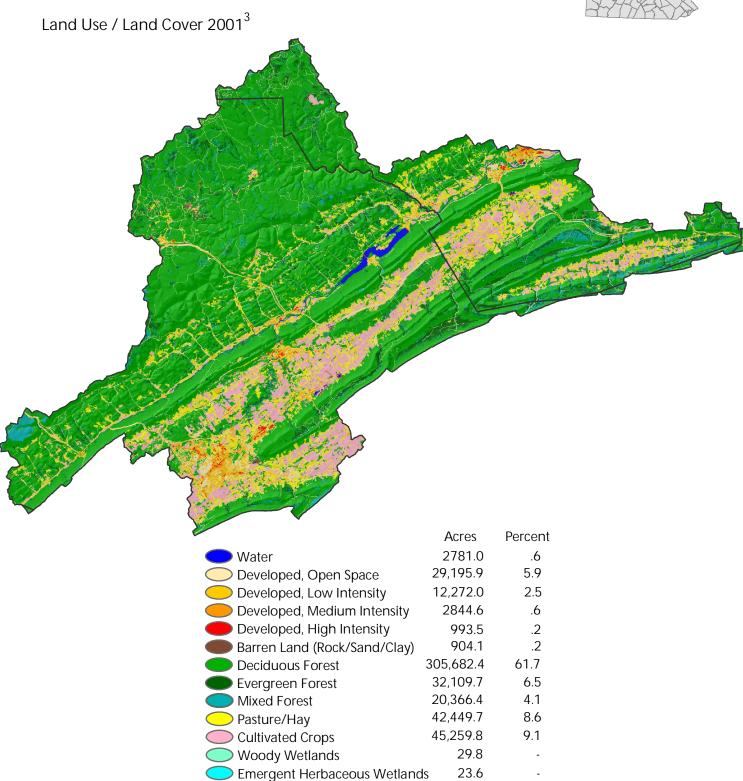




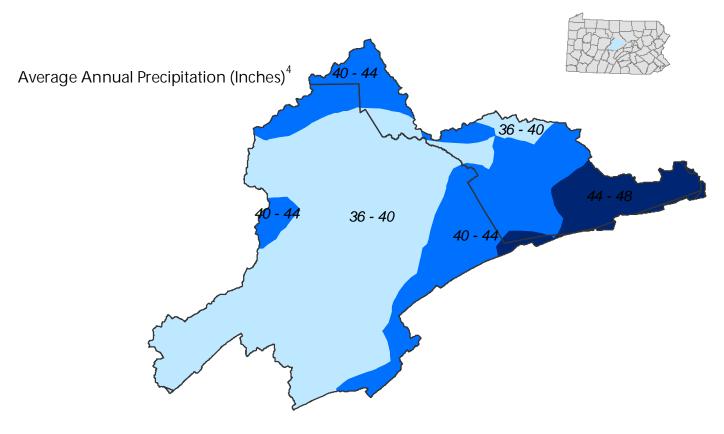












National Wetlands Inventory⁵

Wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface.

NWI digital data files are records of wetlands location and classification as developed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The classification system was adopted as a national classification standard in 1996 by the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

National Wetlands Inventory

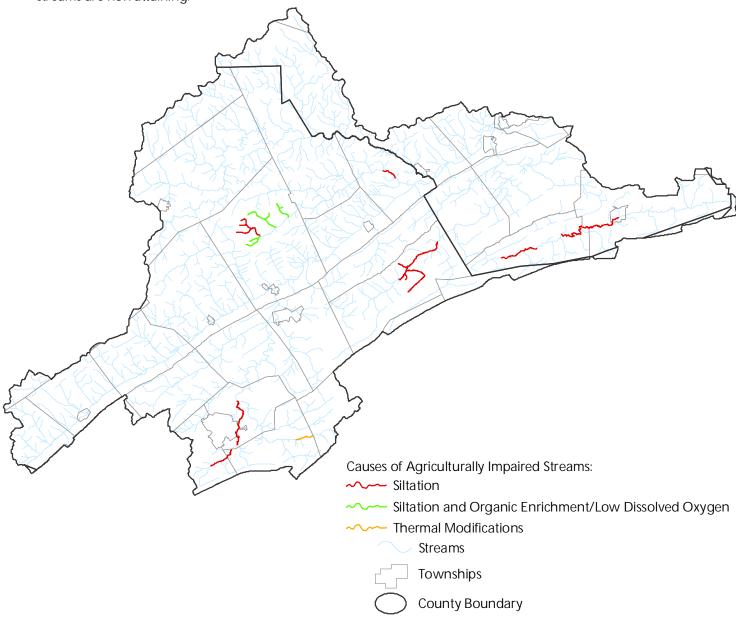
National Wetlands Inventory





Impaired Streams ⁶

The Streams Integrated List represents stream assessments in an integrated format for the Clean Water Act Section 305(b) reporting and Section 303(d) listing. PA Department of Environmental Protection protects 4 stream water uses: aquatic life, fish consumption, potable water supply, and recreation. The 305(b) layers represents stream segments that have been evaluated for attainment of those uses and determine which streams are non-attaining.





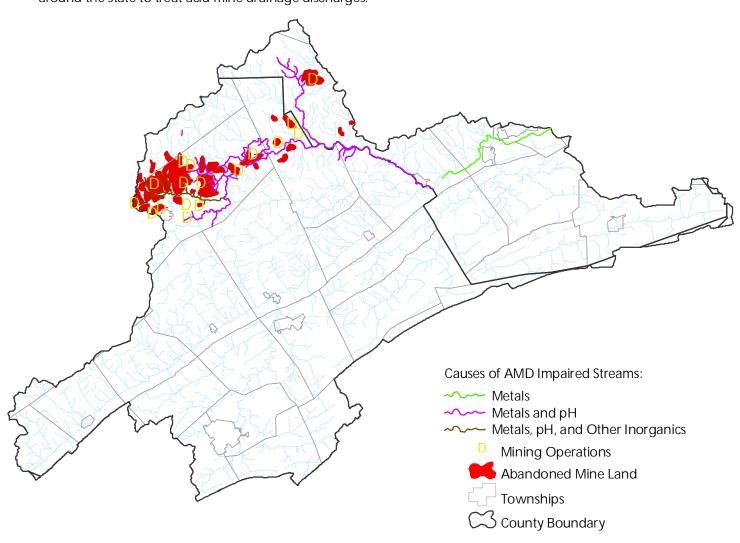


Abandoned Mine Land and

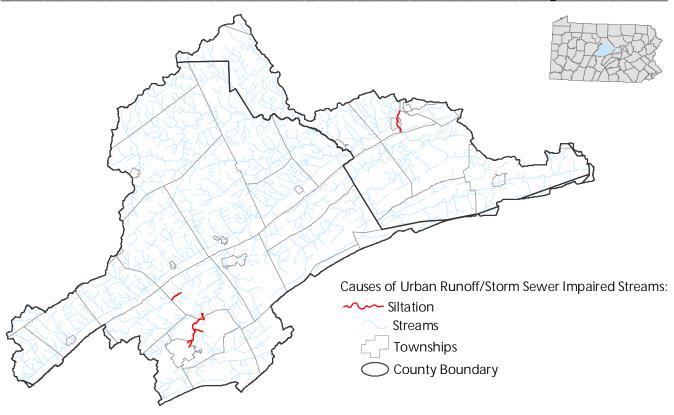
Abandoned Mine Drainage Impaired Streams ⁷
Coal mining in Pennsylvania began in the mid-1700's. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producer in the United States, producing over 69.5 million tons in 1995 in 878 mining operations.

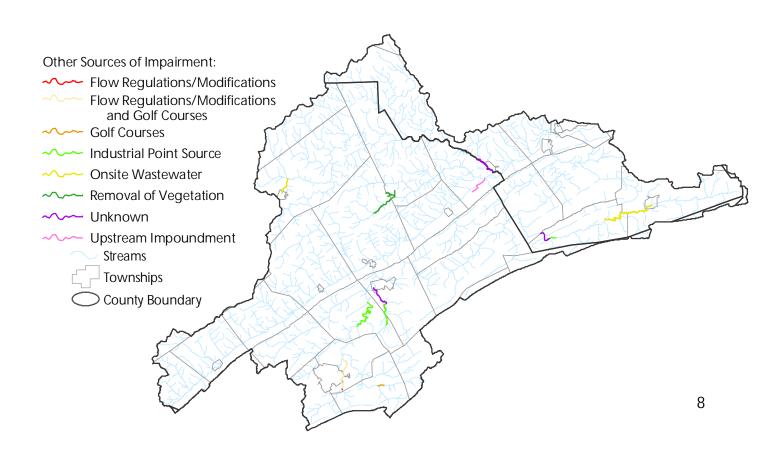
The environmental legacy of hundreds of years of coal mining in PA includes over 2,400 miles of PA's 84,000 miles of streams effected by acid mine drainage from old coal mining operations. Acid mine drainage in the single largest source of water pollution in the state.

Since 1967, Pennsylvania and the federal government have invested close to \$500 million to correct problems from abandoned surface and deep mines. There are acid mine drainage treatment plants around the state to treat acid mine drainage discharges.

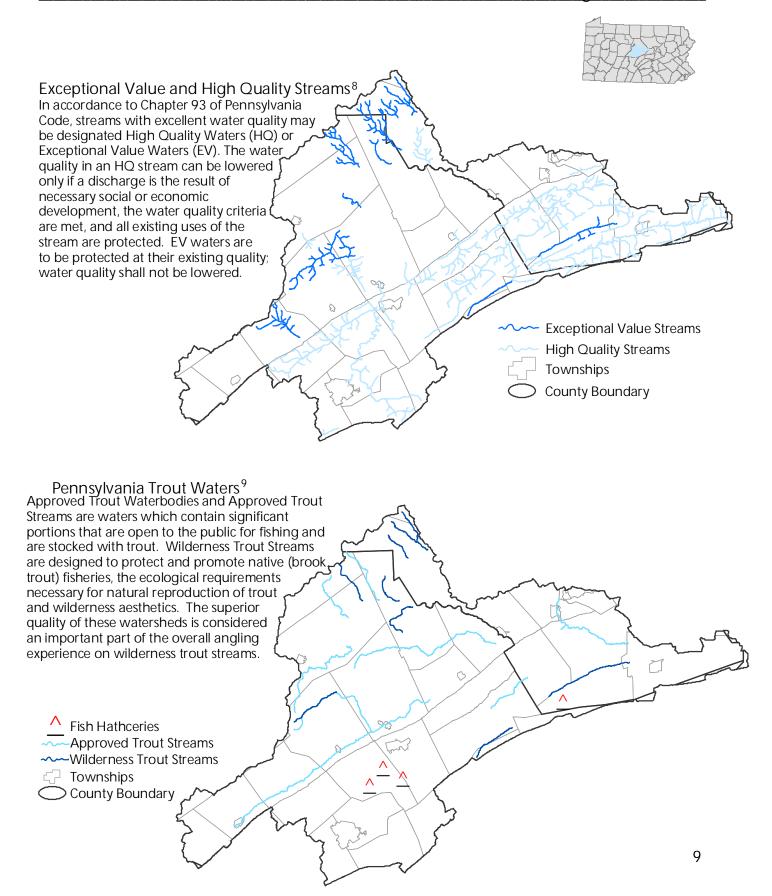




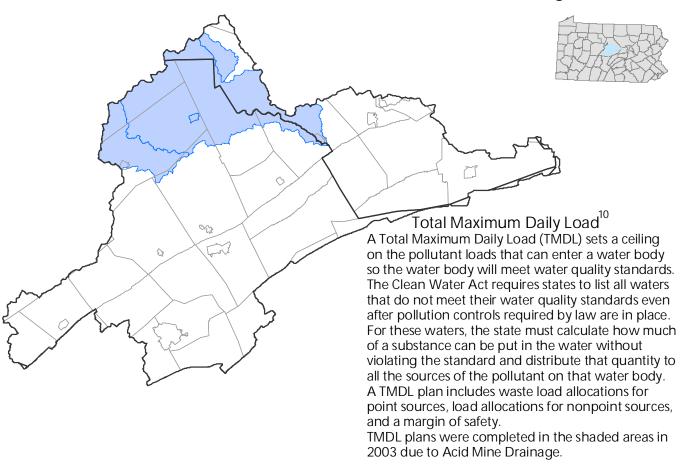


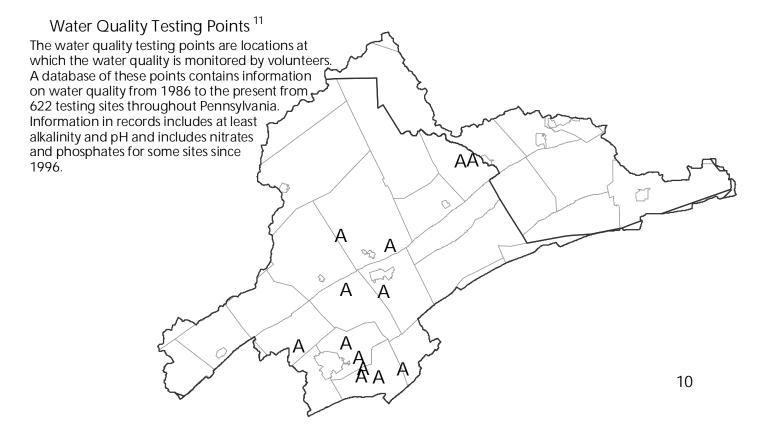














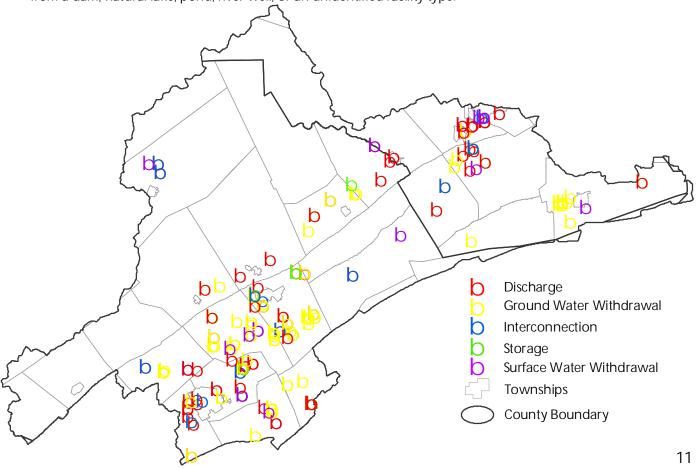


Water Resource Points¹²

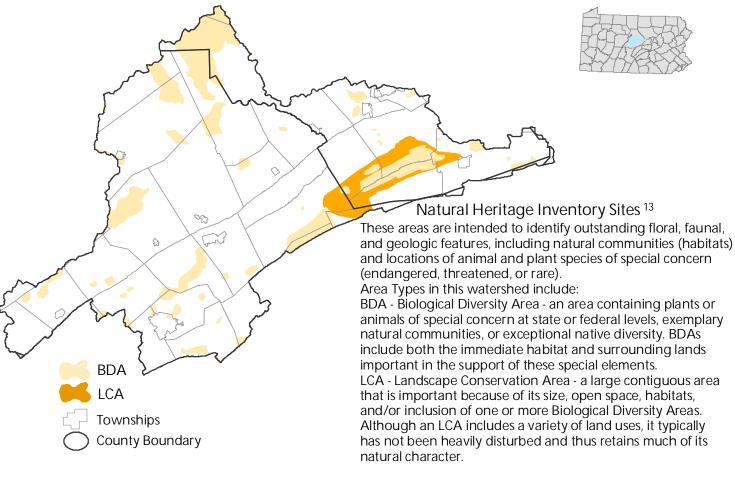
A Water Resource is a DEP primary facility type related to the Water Use Planning Program. The sub-facility types related to Water Resources that are included are: Discharge: represents the return of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type may be a sewage treatment plant, instream discharge, spray irrigation field, groundwater recharge, on-lot septic or an unidentified facility type. Ground Water Withdrawal: represents the withdrawal of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility typemay be a well, spring, quarry, infiltration gallery, deep mine, surface mine or an unidentified facility type. Interconnection: represents the point of interconnection between Water Resources primary facilities. The subfacility type may be for an interconnection between two public water supply agencies or between a public water supply agency and a commercial or industrial water user.

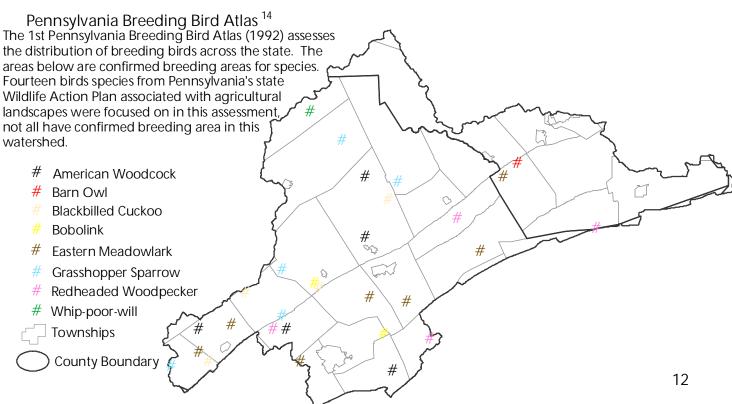
Storage: represents the storage of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type represents raw or treated water storage and may be a quarry, standpipe, open off-stream reservoir, closed off-stream reservoir, instream reservoir, hydroelectric dam, natural lake, pond, silt dam, hydroelectric pumped storage or an unidentified facility type.

Surface Water Withdrawal: represents the withdrawal of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type may be an instream diversion, intake from a dam, natural lake, pond, river well, or an unidentified facility type.

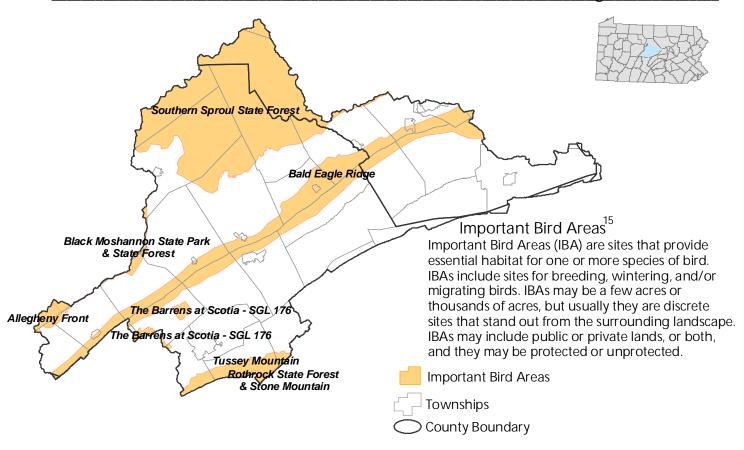


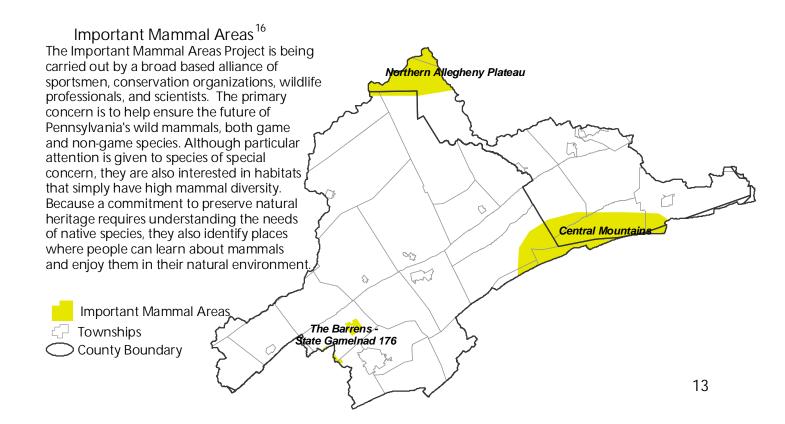










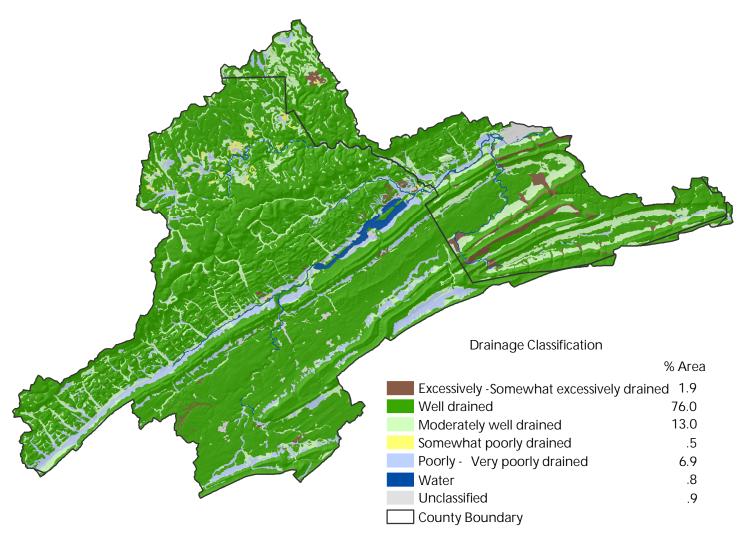




Soils¹⁷

Drainage Classification

Drainage class (natural) refers to the frequency and duration of wet periods under conditions similar to those under which the soil formed. Alterations of the water regime by human activities, either through drainage or irrigation, are not a consideration unless they have significantly changed the morphology of the soil. Seven classes of natural soil drainage are recognized -- excessively drained, somewhat excessively drained, well drained, moderately well drained, somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained, and very poorly drained. These classes are defined in the "Soil Survey Manual."

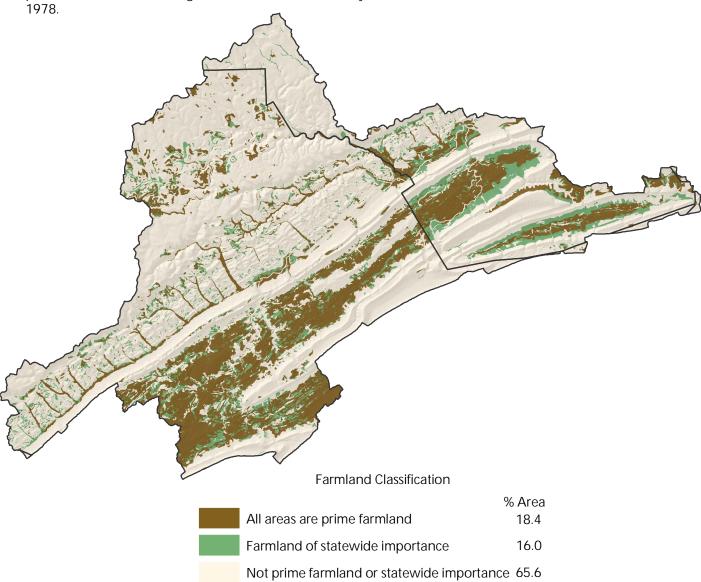






Farmland Classification

Farmland classification identifies soil map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. Farmland classification identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31,



County Boundary

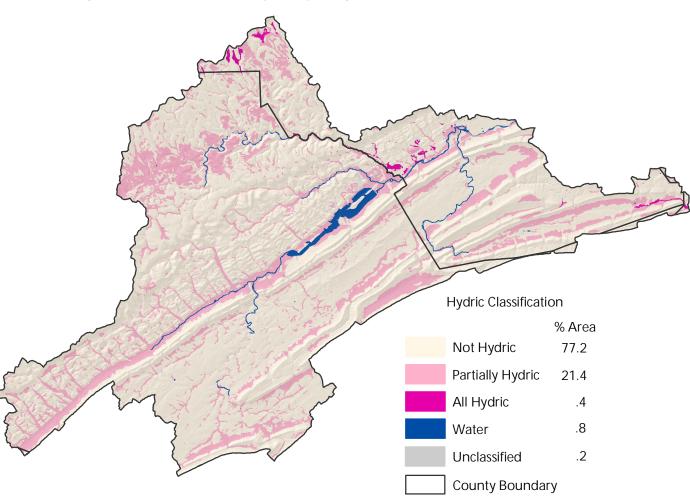




Hydric Soil Classification

This rating provides an indication of the proportion of the map unit that meets criteria for hydric soils. Map units that are dominantly made up of hydric soils may have small areas, or inclusions, of nonhydric soils in the higher positions on the landform, and map units dominantly made up of nonhydric soils may have inclusions of hydric soils in the lower positions on the landform.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). These soils, under natural conditions, are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

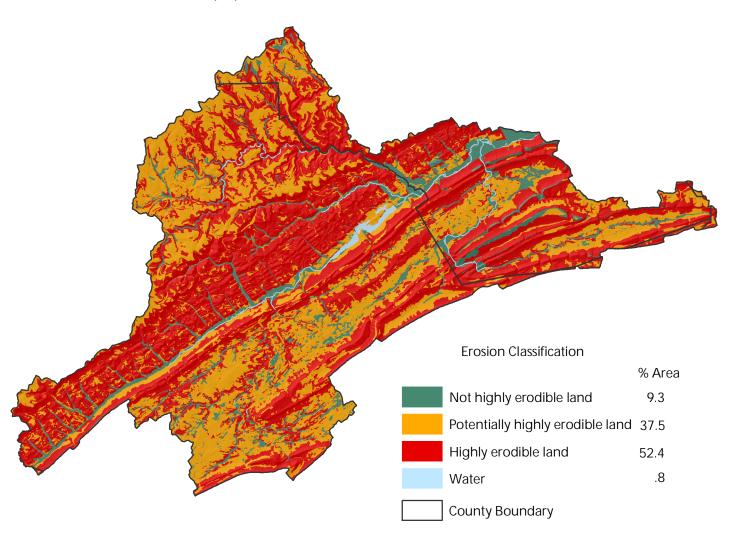






Highly Erodible Land

A soil map with an erodibilty index (EI) of 8 or greater is considered to be highly erodible land (HEL). The EI for a soil map unit is determined by dividing the potential erodibility for the soil map unit by the soil loss tolerance (T) value established for the soil in the FOTG as of January 1, 1990. Potential erodibility is based on default values for rainfall amount and intensity, percent and length of slope, surface texture and organic matter, permeability, and plant cover. Actual erodibility and EI for any specific map unit depends on the actual values for these properties.

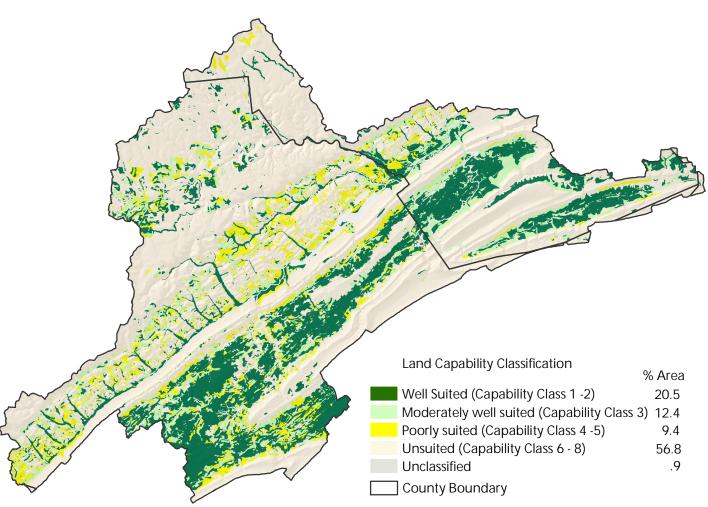




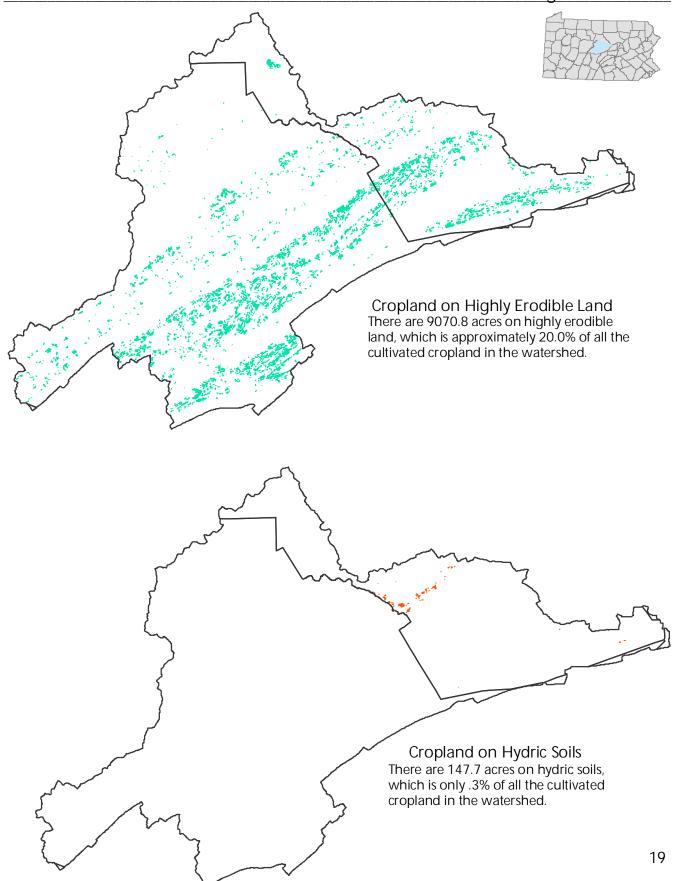


Land Capability Classification

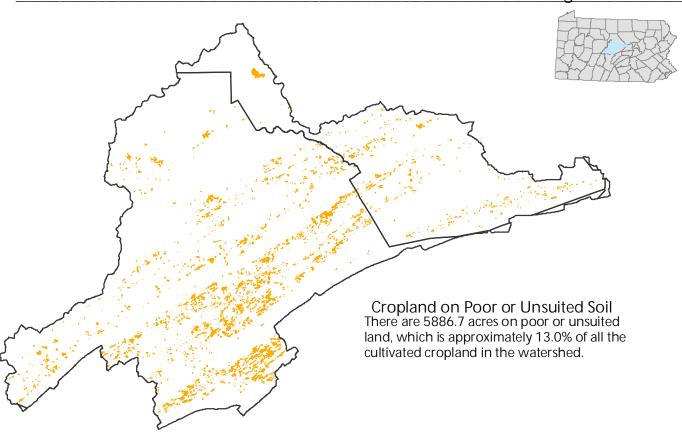
Land capability classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. Crops that require special management are excluded. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. The criteria used in grouping the soils do not include major and generally expensive landforming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils, nor do they include possible but unlikely major reclamation projects. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations that show suitability and limitations of groups of soils for rangeland, for woodland, and for engineering purposes.

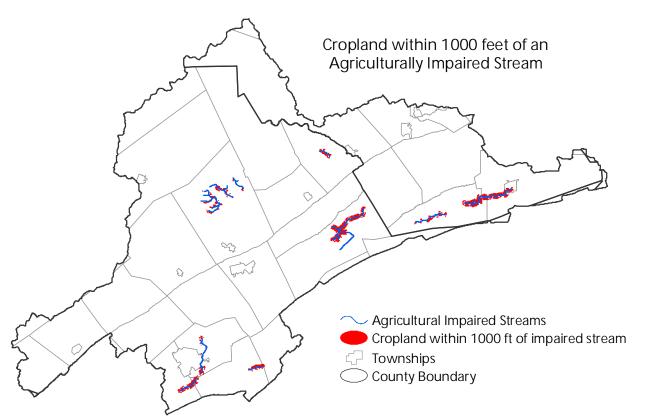
















Resource Concerns

Major resource concerns in the area include:

- erosion
- maintenance of organic matter on cropland
- soil productivity
- sedimentation
- land slippage
- gullying
- surface compaction by livestock

Conservation Practices

Common conservation practices for cropland:

- crop rotation
- contour farming
- nutrient management
- riparian forest buffers
- cover crops
- diversions
- grassed waterways
- hayland planting
- conservation tillage
- residue management

Common pasture management practices:

- prescibed grazing
- nutrient management
- watering systems
- fencing
- mange livestock access to streams
- pasture planting





PRS Performance Measures 18

	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	Total
Total Conservation Systems Planned (acres)	333	1753	1939	2514	3287	NA	4289	3215	17,330
Total Conservation Systems Applied (acres)	117	988	1543	1778	2532	NA	4053	2064	13,075
	Key Co	onserva	tion Tre	atments	5				
Waste Storage Facility (number)	0	6	13	3	1	0	0	1	24
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	0	27	31	0	46	6	13	5	128
Erosion Control Total Soils Saved (tons/year)	0	5	1221	3103	1618	NA	NA	NA	5,947
Nutrient Management (acres)	21	758	4255	2853	3682	0	677	778	13,024
Pest Management (acres)	0	0	0	883	903	0	1260	333	3,379
Prescribed Grazing (acres)	0	13	114	270	619	94	847	138	2,095
Tree and Shrub Establishment (acres)	0	0	0	1	0			3	4
Residue Management (acres)	0	0	58	1033	134	213	2585	1076	5,099
Wildlife Habitat (acres)	0	36	0	40	165	305	310	116	972
Wetlands Created, Restored, or Established	0	_	0	_		0	0	0	8
	Acres in	Conser	vation	Progran	ns				
Conservation Technical Assistance									
Planned	333	1033	685	2514	2969	NA	3199	1854	12,587
Applied	117	311	461	1778	2234	NA	3090	1205	9,196
Conservation Reserve Program				,					
Planned	0	0	0	0	0	NA	449	116	565
Applied	0	0	0	0	30	NA	322	89	441
Environmental Quality Incentive Program									
Planned	0		0	0	48	NA	0	1190	1,434
Applied	0		0	0	0	NA	0	236	236
Farmland Protection Policy/Farm and Ranch	Lands Pro	otection P	rogram						
Planned	0		0				44	0	194
Applied	0	232	0	0	0	NA	44	0	276
Forestry Incentive Program									
Planned	0		0				0		0
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0
Grasslands Reserve Program									
Planned				0			0		0
Applied				0	0	NA	0	0	0
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative									
Planned	0		353						462
Applied	0	0	2						2
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program			_						
Planned	0						0		393
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	393	393
Wetlands Reserve Program	T -		_	I -	_		_		
Planned	0		0				0	0	0
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0

NA - Reporting was unavailabel by Hydrologic Unit Code





Social and Census Data¹⁹

	Φ	5	_							
	Centre	Clinton	Union	tal						
	Ce	5	卢	Total						
Farms (number)	611	99	2	712						
Land in farms (acres)	83,278	12,494	208	95,980						
Total cropland (acres)	52,630	8,032	172	60,834						
Principal operator by primary occupation - Farming										
(number)	295	57	1	353						
Farms by Size										
1 to 9 acres	41	5	0	46						
10 to 49 acres	189	30	0	219						
50 to 179 acres	253	50	1	304						
180 to 499 acres	103	9	0	112						
500 to 999 acres	19	4	0	23						
1,000 acres or more	7	1	0	8						
Livestock and Poultry										
Cattle and calves inventory (farms)	297	50	1	348						
Cattle and calves inventory - Beef cows (farms)	161	18	0	179						
Cattle and calves inventory - Milk cows (farms)	109	25	0	134						
Hogs and pigs inventory (farms)	44	7	0	51						
Sheep and lambs inventory (farms)	32	3	0	35						
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory (farms)	69	9	0	78						
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold (farms)	12	2	0	14						
Crops Harvested										
Corn for grain (acres)	8279	1394	33	9,706						
Corn for silage or greenchop (acres)	4695	1217	23	5,935						
Wheat for grain, all (acres)	1869	258	6	2,133						
Oats for grain (acres)	552	86	3	641						
Barley for grain (acres)	313	6	1	320						
Soybeans for beans (acres)	4453	568	31	5,052						
Forage - land used for all hay and all haylage, grass										
silage, and greenchop (acres)	19,036	2,964	54	22,054						
Vegetables harvested for sale (acres)	1541	74	1	1,616						
Land in orchards (acres)	271	19	0	290						
Total cropland harvested (acres)	40,828	6,565	149	47,542						
Farm Operator by Ethnicity										
White	902	149	2	1,053						
Black or African American	2	0	0	2						
Asian	0	0	0	0						
Hispanic	3	1	0	4						
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	1	0	2						
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0						
Women	256	43	1	300						





Partnership Groups:

A cooperative project involving NRCS and conservation partners, including:

- State Conservation Commission
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Pennsylvania Grazing/Forage Lands Conservation Coalition
- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission





Footnotes/Bibliography

All data is provided "as is". There is no warranties, express or implied, including the warranty of fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this document. Use for planning purpose only.

1. Common Resource Area

Common Resource Area (CRA) delineation is defined as a geographical area where resource concerns, problems, or treatment needs are similar. More information can be found online at http://soils.usda.gov/survey/geography/cra.html

2. National Elevation Dataset (NED)

The NED is a seamless mosaic of the best-available elevation data. The primary source data were the USGS 7.5-minute (30-meter or 10-meter resolution) DEM's. A hillshade grid was also created using the DEM and used to creare a 3-D effect. More inforantion on NED can be found online at http://ned.usgs.gov/

3. Land Use / Land Cover 2001

Land Use / Land Cover map was created using the National Land Cover Dataset. The National Land Cover Dataset was compiled from Landsat satellite TM imagery with a spatial resolution of 30 meters and supplemented by various ancillary data (where available). More inforamtion can be found online at http://landcover.usgs.gov/

4. Average Annual Precipitation

The average annual precipitation data for this map layer were produced through a partnership between NRCS and the Spatial Climate Analysis Service at Oregon State University (OSU). The average annual precipitation is from 1961 through 1990. More information can be found online at http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/climate/index.html

5. National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

The NWI maps do not show all wetlands since the maps are derived from aerial photointerpretation with varying limitations due to scale, photo quality, inventory techniques, and other factors. More information can be found online at http://www.fws.gov/nwi/

6. Impaired Streams

Impaired Streams were derived from Pennsylavania Department of Protection Office of Water Management, 2006 list on Non-Attaining Streams. More information can be found on DEP website at http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp

7. Abandoned Mine Land

Abandoned Mine Land data was received from the Office of Surface Mining. The data set shows the approximate location of Abandoned Mine Land Problem Areas containing public health, safety, and public welfare problems created by past coal mining. More information can be found online at http://www.osmre.gov/osmaml.htm

8. Exceptional Value and High Quality Streams

Exceptional Value and High Quality Streams were taken from the Chapter 93 data layer received from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. For more information on what qualifies a stream as exceptional value or high quality or any information on Chapter 93 streams go to http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter93/chap93toc.html





Footnotes/Bibliography

9. Pennsylvania Trout Waters

Pennsylvania Trout Water data is compiled by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This layer was created based on the 1:24000 National Hydropahy Dataset (NHD) water bodies layer. More information can be found online at

http://www.fish.state.pa.us/fishpub/summary/troutwaters.html

10. Total Maximun Daily Load (TMDL)

TMDL is the sum of the individual waste load allocations and load allocations which would not produce a violation of water quality standards. The data used is from 2003, the PA Department of Environmental Protection is currently working on updating the GIS data available. More information can be found on TMDL locations in PA athttp://www.dep.state.pa.us/watermanagement_apps/tmdl/, and/or nationally at http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/

11. Water Quality Testing Points

Water Quality Testing Points monitor water quality with emphasis on stream acidity in Pennsylvania with an assoiciated database. The database contains more than 33,466 records on water quality from 1986 to the present from 622 testing sites throughout Pennsylvania. Information in the records includes alkalinity and Ph and includes nitrates and phosphates for some sites since 1996. The information is maintained by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring. More information can be found online at http://alpha.dickinson.edu/storg/allarm/allarm%20projects/database.htm

12. Water Resource Points

A Water Resource is a DEP primary facility type related to the Water Use Planning Program. More information can be found http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp

13. Natural Heritage Inventory Sites

The Natural Areas polygons were developed by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) County Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) Program. Natural Areas were identified using map and air photo interpretation, aerial rconnaissance, and field surveys. More information and county reports can be found online at http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/

14. Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas

Data was taken for the 1st Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (1992). For this watershed assessment, fourteen bird species were chosen to be focused on. More information about all bird species can be obtained at http://www.carnegiemnh.org/atlas/home.htm

15. Important Bird Areas

The Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. For more information nationally and/or on the state level go to http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/

16. Important Mammal Areas

Important Mammal Areas Project, IMAP, the first program of it's kind, was created by the Mammal Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PaBS). For more inforamtion go online to http://www.pawildlife.org/imap.htm







Footnotes/Bibliography

17. Soils

Soil Survey spatial and tabular data were used for the following survey areas:

Centre County (PA027)

Clinton County (PA035)

Lycoming County (PA081)

Union County (PA119)

Spatial and tabular data an be downloaded at http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/

18. Performance Results System (PRS)

PRS data was extracted from PRS by year, conservation system, conservation practice, and proagrams by hydrologic unit code. More information can be found online at the PRS homepage http://ias.sc.egov.usda.gov/prshome/

19. Social and Census Data

Ag census data and ethnicity data were downloaded from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The data was adjusted by percent of Hydrologic unit in the county. More inforamtion can be found online at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture/index.asp